

# DoD Suicide Surveillance

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# Sources of Numerator Data

- Defense Casualty Information Processing System (DCIPS) – Personnel accountability
- Defense Incident Based Reporting System (DIBRS) – Law enforcement
- DoD Mortality Registry – Armed Forces Institute of Pathology -- Epidemiology
- Service Suicide Prevention Program Managers -- Prevention

# Sources of Denominator Data

- Service Suicide Prevention Program Managers
- Derived from personnel databases
  - Defense Manpower Data Center
- May have operational sensitivity

# Suicide Prevention Programs

- Programs owned by the chain of command – not medical programs
- Army – Manager is line officer (non-medical) in Army G-1 (Personnel) office
- Navy – Manager is medical officer (psychologist) in BUPERS (Personnel) office
- USMC – Manager is medical officer (psychologist) in HQMC (Manpower and Readiness) office
- Air Force – Manager is medical officer (psychologist) in Air Force Surgeon General office
- Prevention emphasis
- Political sensitivity

# Suicide Investigation

- Medical determination of suicide as manner of death is preliminary
- Final determination of manner of death made by law enforcement
- “Psychological autopsy” only performed in cases in which the manner of death is undetermined by the medical examiner
- All Services prepare an incident report in cases of suicide

# Suicide reports

- DoD – DoDI 5154.30 AFIP Operations; Policy Memorandum “Psychological Autopsies” June 4, 2001 -- Psychological autopsies
- Army -- DA Pamphlet 600-24 (Suicide Prevention and Psychological Autopsy), AMEDD Suicide Event Report
- Navy and USMC – Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report (DONSIR)
- Air Force – Suicide Event Surveillance System